

December 22 1927

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God." BOOK OF MORMON, ETHER 12: 4.

No. 51, Vol. 89

Thursday, December 22, 1927

Price One Penny

WILLING SERVICE*

ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

I ESTEEM very highly the privilege of attending this conference and of listening to the instructions and testimonies that we have heard. There is in my soul sincere gratitude for my membership in the Church of Jesus Christ. As I came down this morning, observing the sunshine, the changing tints of the foliage and the beauties of this valley, which surround us, I felt that surely the great pioneer leader made no mistake when he announced to that little band of pilgrims who had crossed the trackless plains: "This is the place!"

THE SPIRIT OF THE WORK

I desire to be blessed by the Lord, that the thoughts voiced by me may be profitable to you. We are a small part of a great congregation that belongs to our Heavenly Father. All the children in the world are His, and upon us has been laid the responsibility of delivering to them the truth, much of which had been in the world before, some of which had been lost until the Gospel was restored again in this latter day. We have listened to these good men who preside over our missions, have partaken of the spirit of the mission field and have rejoiced with them and with those who labour under them, that our Heavenly Father has given to us in this latter day the duty to perform of pro-

*Address delivered at the third session of the Ninety-eighth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A., October 8th, 1927.

claiming His truth to the children of men. Perhaps it may appear to the outside observer that there is among the Latter-day Saints an unusual enthusiasm. As one man recently said: "It is strange to me how joyfully you people carry your work forward. It matters not whether I speak to a youth or to a mature man, to a gardener or a policeman, among your people, they are all happy and satisfied and confident that they possess the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Everyone should possess the spirit of the work, a spirit of love, a spirit of kindness, a spirit of clarity for the weaknesses and frailties of mankind, but with a pronounced desire that the truth may be made manifest, that those who err in their lives may be led to forsake their folly and turn to the Lord our God.

READY RESPONSE TO MISSION CALLS

We believe absolutely in the admonition that was given by the Saviour of the world when He said: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Therefore, we believe that if we can establish faith in the minds of the rising generation, if we can teach the truth in such a way that our Father's children will seek Him and His influence first, that this world will begin to prepare for the Millennium, when there will be joy and peace and happiness and when our Heavenly Father will establish His kingdom into which He has invited every child of His that has been born into the world. With that understanding in our hearts and with that feeling in our souls, is it any wonder that there is enthusiasm in our worship, that we have a disposition to be anxious to divide these glorious truths with our neighbours? Is it to be wondered at that when the time comes that our sons are called into the mission field or we are asked to lay aside our duties and go out as servants of the living God, endued with power from on high, possessing authority that has been conferred in this latter day, in order that we may divide with all people this wonderful truth that has made our lives so rich and that is preparing us to be desirable companions for all His children wherever we may find them, that we respond willingly and gladly?

INDIVIDUAL ASSURANCE

It is this spirit of unselfish service that is needed in the world. Repentance of sin is also greatly needed by mankind. It is necessary that there be obedience to law, not only to the laws of God, but obedience to the laws of the land should be stimulated in the minds of men, if we expect this earth upon which we live to be the kind of a home that He desires us to possess. Our ministry is one of love and forbearance, and we desire to do good to all and to assist all to understand the plan of life and salvation that

the Lord has revealed in this latter day. The assurance that God lives is most desirable, and that knowledge may be just as fixed in the lives of the humble man and the humble woman in the ranks as it is in the lives of those who preside over us. I am not dependent upon the testimony of my brethren and my sisters by whom I am surrounded, and for whom I have an affectionate regard. And this is the testimony that I desire to leave with you: I may if I will know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that He is the Redeemer of the world and that He so loved the world that He gave His life in order that His Gospel may be preached to all men.

STEADFAST DEVOTION OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Joseph Smith the Prophet, who was the servant of Jesus Christ our Lord, was given an understanding of the Gospel that was taught by the Redeemer, and in our day was inspired to perfect a church organization that is recognized as the most perfect in the world.

This youth was so sure of the revelation that he had received, and was so anxious that His Father's children, all of them, should know of the truth, that from the time he received the plates of the Book of Mormon from the Angel Moroni he devoted his entire life to the organization of the Church and to the disseminating of truth. Those chosen to carry the work forward received the Holy Priesthood and were prepared to carry on when the Prophet said: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter . . . I have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward all men. . . . and it shall be said of me: 'He was murdered in cold blood!'" So he went to his doom as he understood it, but there was burning in his soul a knowledge such as Stephen had, such as the Redeemer had, that our Heavenly Father was at the helm, that it was His work that was upon the earth, that it was His power that would eventually control, that this life was but a part of eternity. He was prepared to give up a part of his earth-life, if need be, in order that he might enjoy eternally the companionship that he so sincerely loved and the association of good men and women who have dwelt and do dwell upon the earth and will again dwell upon the earth when it becomes the celestial kingdom. This testimony the humblest individuals of this Church may have, and they may know just as they know that they live that these things are true.

THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

This Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation, as the Apostle Paul declared. It is the Redeemer's work. It is the only way whereby we may attain the highest exaltation that the Saviour of mankind intended that those who followed Him should enjoy. I do not say that egotistically; I say it with all

charity for our Father's children who belong to other churches I say it with love for His sons and daughters who do not understand; but He has commanded that we should say this thing. It is His will that people should know. In no uncertain tone is the Gospel being proclaimed among the children of men, and the message of life and salvation is being offered without money and without price to all our Father's children, in order that they may avail themselves of the knowledge that will prepare them for eternal life in His celestial kingdom. That is why there is rejoicing in the lives of those who keep the commandments of God.

The happiest men and the happiest women that you know in the world are those who are conforming their lives to the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are those who have the assurance of eternal life; they are those who understand the purpose of our being; they are those who realize that to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness means for them all that men and women can enjoy in this life or in the life that is to come.

CAUSE FOR HAPPINESS

With happiness and with thanksgiving there depart into the world from this Church groups of men and women whose lives are devoted to proclaiming the truth. In the neighborhood of two thousand are in the world to-day, paying their own expenses, going from door to door, teaching what our Heavenly Father has said must be known by the children of men before this world can be transformed into the kingdom of our Lord. These are your sons and daughters. After them shall go others who will carry this message forward to the honour and glory of our Heavenly Father. As I have traveled to and fro in the world bearing this message my soul has been filled with joy and my eyes have been dimmed with tears when I have seen how perfectly men's lives may be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have seen those who were discouraged, those who were in darkness, those who questioned the purpose of their being; and when they have had taught to them the glorious truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ they have changed; they have learned to be happy, to be contented, to be satisfied, to be enthusiastic in believing and teaching the Gospel that was proclaimed by Jesus Christ when He dwelt upon this earth and traveled in Galilee.

FREELY RECEIVED—FREELY GIVEN

Brethren and sisters, the world does not understand that, but it is our mission to assist them to understand it, and it is not with egotism, it is not with arrogance, but with charity for all, with loving tenderness, that this message is sent forth. We do not say to the Presbyterians, to the Methodists, to the Baptists,

to the Catholics and the others who in their lives are striving to live the teachings of their churches—we do not say to them: You must give up all that you have been taught; you must turn away from the truth that has been deposited with you in order that you may come into the Church of Jesus Christ. We say to them: Keep all that you possess; keep all the virtues; keep all the truth; keep all the goodness that has ever come into your lives, and then permit us to share with you the additional light that our Heavenly Father in His tender mercy has bestowed upon the children of men in our day. That is our mission to our Father's children. It is a mission of peace, of good will towards all men. It is an intense and enthusiastic desire to divide with all our Father's children the good things that He has so generously bestowed upon us; and it is with the hope that they may understand that we go upon our bended knees day after day and pray that their hearts may be touched, that the Spirit of God may come into their souls that they may understand the truth as it is given unto them, and thereby make preparation for the time to come when our Heavenly Father will gather those who have sought Him first and those who have prepared themselves thereby to be the eternal companions of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING AND TESTIMONY

This, my brethren and sisters, is what brings joy into our hearts. That is why there is peace in your home and in mine. Therefore this morning as one of the humblest among you I thank Him with all my heart for the assurance that has come into my life, for the privileges that have been mine, for the associations that are so desirable, which I have been permitted to enjoy while I have lived here these few years upon the earth. And above all, I thank Him for the knowledge that has been burned into my soul. I know that my Heavenly Father lives; I know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of mankind, and that there is no other name under heaven whereby men and women may be exalted, but by the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I do know that He came into the world in this latter day, that He bestowed divine authority upon a humble boy who was seeking the truth, and the result of that has been the organization of the Church with which we are identified; and there is with it the power of God unto salvation to all those who believe. Knowing that as I know that I live, I bear you witness of it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, December 11th, was conference day in Scotland, and members and earnest inquirers from the three organized branches, from the Highlands and the Lowlands and from the heather-

covered braes, foregathered at 30 Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, to renew acquaintances, to listen to words of encouragement and counsel, and to hear truths of the Gospel proclaimed by President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage from Mission headquarters, by District President William Cooke and by the Traveling Elders of the District, all of whom were present on the gladsome occasion.

Those of the Sunday School who took part in the first meeting of the conference dealt with the auxiliary they represented, the theme being "The Sunday School Organization." Various departments of this auxiliary were dealt with by members who expounded the many duties and showed how each works in harmony with the organization as a whole.

Following the program Sister Talmage illustrated with stories and incidents the necessity of leading clean and active lives. Repentance is one of the fundamental principles of the Gospel, she stated, but we should so live that we may render daily repentance unnecessary. President Talmage commented favourably upon the Sunday School program, carried further the theme, and made explanation concerning changes that are to take place in the courses of study in Sunday School and Priesthood classes beginning with the coming year.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" was the thought around which remarks by Elder Carl W. Buchanan centered, in the afternoon session, and in summing up he cited Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." The customary report of District activities was given by President William Cooke, and some of the outstanding figures and facts that it revealed are here presented: Missionaries have devoted 2,722 hours to tracting; 905 hours in visiting investigators and 14,137 hours in missionary endeavour, during which time there have been circulated 89,620 tracts, 5,824 pamphlets and 51 copies of the Book of Mormon. Meetings held have numbered 380, of which number 134 have been open-air. There have been eleven persons baptized. Following this summary of activities President Cooke dwelt upon the personality of God and the three distinct personages of the Godhead. He also spoke upon the first principles of the Gospel, and showed that by intelligent obedience thereto convincing testimonies are obtained.

Elder L'Etrenne Andelin distinguished between general and individual salvation, pointing out that the one, which is equivalent to redemption, is accorded to all by the work of the Christ, while the other is further conditioned upon individual faith and works. Elder Louis S. Leatham bore earnest testimony to the

reality of the restoration of the Gospel and the divine origin of the Book of Mormon. Whenever the Church of Christ is upon earth it is guided through revelation from the heavens, was among the truths proclaimed by Elder Willis E. Bean.

That there cannot be two churches of Christ on earth at one time in contention with each other was attested by the Mission President. All churches and persons must be protected in their religious rights providing they do not infringe upon the rights of others, was a related subject with which he dealt.

Mr. and Mrs. David Wright, who had visited in Utah during the summer just past, were present at the meetings. Mr. Wright responded to an invitation to speak briefly at the afternoon gathering. He was generous in his praise of the "Mormon" people and of the hospitality accorded him and his wife on their recent visit. He stated that he receives the Saturday issue of the *Deseret News*, one of the leading journals of the Western States, owned and controlled by the Church, and that it is one of the "cleanest and best published papers in the English language."

Increased attendance marked the final meeting. Archaeological testimony pertaining to the genuineness of the Book of Mormon was given by Elder George W. Romney, who also bore testimony of its divine origin. Local Elder John Hunter testified that Joseph Smith was a prophet divinely commissioned. Sister Talmage told of advantages that come with membership in the Relief Society and of the work that is being accomplished by that organization. She emphasized the benefit to be derived from earnest, prayerful study of the Book of Mormon.

In the concluding address President Talmage dwelt upon the salvation of mankind and expounded trenchant scriptures pertaining thereto. He showed that salvation is relative, and that graded conditions await the souls of men beyond the grave. The existence of the "many mansions" affirmed by our Lord on the night of the betrayal was cited in evidence, as were the three states or glories referred to by Paul as comparable to the sun, the moon and the stars, respectively. The ancient Apostle named two of the three in descending order as the celestial and the terrestrial glories; the third was described without name, and illustrated by the varying lustre of the stars. The speaker then showed that by revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the current age the third state or kingdom is designated the telestial, next above which is the terrestrial, and yet higher is the exaltation pertaining to the celestial state. Every man will find his place according to what he really is.

A missionary meeting was held on the Saturday evening preceding the conference. Separate meetings of Mutual Improvement Association officers, of the Relief Society, and of members holding the Priesthood were held between regular sessions on Sunday.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1927

EDITORIAL

WELCOME, PRESIDENT WIDTSOE!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES of missionaries are of frequent chronicle in our pages, for these accredited servants come as they are called, serve as appointed, and return to their homes when released by the voice of directing authority. There is no distinctive season for these movements; the changes range throughout the year, every year, and continue as the years link themselves into decades.

Thus the personnel of the missionary army of the Church is in a state of constant replacement; yet the militant service of battling against sin, and of carrying the message and means of relief to the wounded sinner, the benighted and deceived, the souls held captive by the false doctrines of human conjuring, is waged without armistice or truce, and with steady but ever-increasing success. Traveling missionaries, who constitute the rank and file of the great system, and commissioned officers, who consider themselves as presiding servants amongst their fellows, are alike subject to assignment, and change therein, in every field.

The "European Mission" comprises ten main units, each designated a Mission and in charge of a Mission President; these are the British, French, Netherlands, Swiss-German, German-Austrian, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Armenian, and South African Missions. The President of the European Mission has general and visitatorial jurisdiction over the units named, and therefore occupies the position of a President-General; moreover, he holds concurrently the office of President of the British Mission.

It is now our great pleasure to publish what has already become generally known among our members—that ELDER JOHN A. WIDTSOE, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, will soon be installed as President of the European Mission, his administration to begin with the dawn of the new year, January 1st, 1928. On the date of this number of the *Star*, Elder Widtsøe, accompanied by his wife, Sister Leah Dnnford Widtsøe, and their daughter, Eudora, is nearing the British shores; and it is hoped that the Christmas welcome awaiting them will be the auspicious beginning of a long and happy sojourn on this side of the Atlantic, characterized throughout by that high and particular kind of

joy which is reserved for missionaries who live and labour in the inspiring atmosphere of holy service.

The Mission is to be congratulated on the appointment of a man of Elder Widtsoe's capability, capacity, experience, and powers of mind and spirit, to be its chief executive. None can doubt that the selection was made under the influence of divine inspiration through the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve, by whom action was taken on September 29th, of which action immediate publicity was given through the home journals. Announcement of the appointment was made also from the Tabernacle pulpit in Salt Lake City by the President of the Church at the General Conference assembly on October 7th, as noted in our issue of last week.

Elder Widtsoe was born on January 31st, 1872, and therefore is within a few weeks of completing his fifty-sixth year; so, if we gauge development by age he is now in the fulness of maturity. His advent into this world occurred on the little island of Frøen, near Trondhjem, Norway. Early in life he and his younger brother were left fatherless; but his worthy and capable mother, who was a faithful member of the Church, gave to her boys such care and training as to start them well, and for a good way to accompany them, on the road to academic and practical scholarship, and more particularly to church activity and leadership, by which each of them has won distinction. This noble woman took her sons to Utah in 1884.

Ten years later John A. Widtsoe had received his secondary education in the Church Schools, and had completed a collegiate course in Harvard University, from which great institution he was graduated with honours, receiving the bachelor's degree. In 1899, after a period of specialized study and research, he received the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from Göttingen University, Germany; and later he was made a Doctor of Laws by both the Utah Agricultural College and the University of Utah, after successful administration as president of each of those institutions. Dr. Widtsoe is also a Life-Associate of the Victoria Institute, or Philosophical Society of Great Britain.

His scientific specialty was chemistry, in which field he became a recognized authority, particularly in agricultural chemistry; and of his numerous publications his textbooks on "Dry-Farming" and "Irrigation Practice" are used in the colleges and universities of many lands. Notwithstanding his eminence as a man of research, invention and discovery in the field of his specialty, Dr. Widtsoe's ability as an administrator and leader of men carried him to high places as a successful executive, as already indicated. He has served his country in consulting capacity on committees and councils of national status dealing with great projects of land reclamation and irrigation.

Among his many writings on theological subjects, "Joseph Smith as Scientist" and "Rational Theology" are known throughout the Church. He has served long and faithfully as a member of the General Board of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, of the Board of the Genealogical Society of Utah, and of the Church Board of Education. He was ordained an Apostle and was set apart as a member of the Council of the Twelve on March 17th, 1921; and from the beginning of his service in this exalted calling he has been commendably active and proficient.

By disposition kind and sympathetic he has endeared himself to all with whom and for whom he has ministered. Under President Widtsoe's administration the interests of the European Mission will be in safe and capable hands motivated by a right heart and a potent mind.

Equally certain is it that SISTER LEAH DUNFORD WIDTSOE will be as she has been, a help meet for her husband in the great affairs with which he has to deal. By virtue of her long and varied experience in matters pertaining to the development of efficiency among women she comes to us well prepared for the duties awaiting her as President of the Relief Society throughout the European Mission. Sister Widtsoe has pursued her studies in the University of Utah, the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, at Harvard, and at the Brigham Young University of which she is a graduate of baccalaureate rank.

In home institutions, both church and civic, she has long been prominent on such subjects as home economics, human nutrition, and parent-training. She is the author of "Labour Saving Devices for the Home Farm" and of numerous articles, outlines and lessons for use in our Church Schools and other related organizations. Mrs. Widtsoe shares the honour of authorship with her talented and distinguished mother, Mrs. Susa Young Gates, whose name is known for good throughout the women's organizations of the Church, particularly, in the production of the valuable and fascinating brochure, "Women of the 'Mormon' Church", first published in 1926. Sister Widtsoe is a granddaughter, through maternal descent, of Zion's eminent pioneer, organizer and prophet, President Brigham Young, who was the immediate successor to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Our Church members throughout these Missions may hopefully expect assistance, cooperation, and example of the highest order under Sister Widtsoe's skilful leadership—and the greatest expectations will be realized.

For both President and Sister Widtsoe we bespeak the fullest and most cordial support from the missionaries and resident members alike; and this we do with a confidence born of joyous and deeply appreciated experience.

JAMES E. TALMAGE

CHRISTMAS BOUNTY

AND she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Brief, unembellished, yet eloquent in simplicity are these words that tell of the mortal birth of the Saviour of the world, that tell of universal peace and good will, of the boundless love of the Father, who "gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Peace on Earth! Eternal Life! Choice gifts from heaven are these, and, being thus graciously proffered, why, ask unnumbered hosts of men and women—if not audibly, at least in thought—why is the world harassed? Whence come these tumults, these wars and this bloodshed of frequent recurrence? What is responsible for contentions and bickerings in so-called religious circles? Why are mankind troubled, plagned and distressed? Why are they skeptical and uncertain concerning things here and hereafter? The answer is ready. The Eternal Father does not will to forcibly bestow His priceless gifts; they are freely offered, conditioned upon eternal and well-defined laws; the inhabitants of the earth have not turned as a body with one heart and one mind to serve the Lord. The gifts proclaimed on the first glorious Christmas have been continuously offered, but men have not done their part in accepting.

Certain peoples are of record as having unitedly lived according to the commandments of the Lord, with the result that they enjoyed peace and assurance of eternal life. Notable among these were Enoch and his people, whom, we read, walked with God, and Zion was no more, for God took it up unto Himself.

Another outstanding example is recorded in Book of Mormon history. After the death and resurrection of the Christ, as had been foreshadowed by many prophets, He appeared unto the Nephites on the Western Continent. Only the more righteous among the people had been spared from the violent disturbances

concurrent with the crucifixion. These he taught as He had taught the people in Palestine, but to the Western fold He imparted even greater truths because of their faith. Many days He ministered among them, and established His Church.

And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.

And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

These words convey a picture of peaceful happiness. There was one Church of Christ in all the land of the West, and for two hundred years the people lived in the blessed circumstances described. Such a period has not been known since; indeed, there has scarcely been a decade in which the world has not been distressed with wars or threats of wars and all attendant ills.

Ah, but times are different, and we have outgrown the simple teachings of the Christ, say the worldly-wise, as they substitute doctrines of men for the life-giving precepts of the Lord. Unfortunately for all, times are different; but the Gospel of Jesus Christ applies to all men in all ages; it has been restored to earth in this latter day, and at this Christmastide all blessings and gifts pertaining thereto are accessible, conditioned as ever. Eternal life is a reality, and the universal reign of peace will yet be ushered in by Him who is the Prince of Peace.

To members of the Church of Christ in every clime, and to all nations, tongues, and peoples the *Millennial Star* extends hearty Christmas Greetings and every good wish for a joyful, peaceful and prosperous New Year, saying the while: Follow in the light of the Gospel of the Master as the Wise Men of old followed the bright star of Bethlehem, for there lies the way that leads to universal peace and eternal life in the presence of the King of kings, whose mortal birth we reverently commemorate this Christmas season.—RICHARD L. EVANS.

TRIBUTE TO A PROPHET

ON THE TWENTY-THIRD OF DECEMBER, 1805, in Sharon, Windsor County, State of Vermont, U.S.A., Joseph Smith, the latter-day prophet, was born in humble circumstances to stalwart and religious parents. At the age of fourteen, while he was earnestly praying to be guided in making his choice from among the churches of the day, the Father and the Son appeared unto him. In this glorious theophany established churches were denounced and the boy Joseph was told of his life-mission. In his twenty-second year he received from a heavenly messenger the plates

from which the Book of Mormon was translated. Under divine guidance and commission he organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the age of twenty-five. He had not yet reached two-score years when he was slain by a mob; he was a martyr to the cause of truth, and a willing sacrifice for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One hundred and twenty-two years have passed since his birth, eighty-three since his death, and the work through him begun has rolled on with ever-increasing strength and influence.

As foretold by heavenly oracle, the Prophet's name has been known for good and evil in all the world. Many and widely-differing have been the proffered explanations of his greatness, but only one has stood—Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Lord.

Prominent among those who have paid him tribute and who have confessed inability to explain away his greatness is Josiah Quincy, a noted historical writer of the period. What follows is taken from his book, *Figures of the Past* :

It is by no means improbable that some future textbook for the use of generations yet unborn will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that interrogatory may be thus written: Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet. And the reply, absurd as it doubtless seems to most men now living, may be an obvious commonplace to their descendants. History deals in surprises and paradoxes quite as startling as this. The man who established a religion in this age of free debate, who was and is to-day accepted by hundreds of thousands as a direct emissary from the Most High—such a rare human being is not to be disposed of by pelting his memory with unsavory epithets. Fanatic, impostor, charlatan, he may have been; but these hard names furnish no solution to the problem he presents to us. Fanatics and impostors are living and dying every day, and their memory is buried with them; but the wonderful influence which this founder of a religion exerted, and still exerts, throws him into relief before us, not as a rogue to be criminated, but as a phenomenon to be explained. . . . If the reader does not know just what to make of Joseph Smith, I can not help him out of the difficulty. I myself stand helpless before the puzzle.

RICHARD L. EVANS

THE FALL SERIES OF CONFERENCES

CONFERENCES are many and varied in the Church, both in the Stakes and Wards of Zion and in the Missions abroad. Misdirection or inappropriateness in the conduct of these functions is so rare as to be practically non-existent. Conference is the occasion of consultation among the officers—wherein they *confer* as to work done and as to means and methods for further en-

deavour, and for the transaction of business calling for the voice of the membership in general. In addition to these affairs, public services are held, distinctively of worship, at which thanksgiving and praise are reverently offered, combined with helpful encouragement to the participants through discourse and testimony.

With the closing of the Scottish District conference on December 11th the series of Fall Conferences for the current year was completed. Through fifteen consecutive weeks these gatherings have been held in the several Districts of the British Mission, strictly according to the schedule published in the *Star* of August 4th.

Every assembly incident to these appointments has been of a high and progressive order. The prepared programs for the opening meeting of each conference, given by the Sunday School classes, have manifested ability in rendition and devotion to exalted ideals. Reports by the District Presidents have demonstrated in a forceful way the vitality and vigour of the work in progress. Fervent testimony and inspiring discourse by Traveling Elders and local officers have expressed and impressed the deep sincerity of those especially engaged in ministerial service. Appreciation and soulful participation by the members as also by investigators and other friendly hearers have been abundantly evident.

Let us rejoice in the success of the Fall Conferences just closed, and look with confident anticipation of yet greater blessing through the Spring Conferences next to come.

THE MIRACLE OF "MORMONISM"

"TO ME, perhaps, the marvel shown is that an untutored farmer youth should have had the literary ability to express in the language used by Joseph Smith the record he presented—how, at his age; he could have had the knowledge of the scriptures, both Old and New Testament, which enabled him, as a familiar story, to so forcibly use and re-use, and to reaffirm, the scriptural teachings. If you seek for miracles, this was one—a miraculous record whether the 'Mormon' or anti-'Mormon' view be taken; for from the 'Mormon' view it was a divine revelation; if this is denied, it is an instance of phenomenal wisdom and utterance from one as untrained as was Christ, when, as a child, He argued with the elders in the temple."—DR. HENRY S. DRINKER, past-president of Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., in a personal letter to the Editor.

A LITTLE THING is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing.—ST. BASIL.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfer: Elder Robert Dell Buchanan has been transferred from the Sheffield to the London District.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released and sailed for their homes in America aboard the *Majestic* on December 14th: From Sonthampton—Elder Archie Baird, who has laboured in the Manchester and Liverpool Districts; Elder Horace L. Barker, of the Liverpool and Sheffield Districts; Elder Myron H. Brenchley, of the Leeds and London Districts; Elder Moroni B. Harrison, of the Ulster and Liverpool Districts; and Elder Hymn J. Ward, who has laboured in the London District. From Cherbourg—Elder Harold A. Candland, of the London District, Elder Will B. Jex, who has laboured in the Leeds and Norwich Districts; Elder Seth P. Leishman, of the Leeds and Ulster Districts; Elder Cyril P. Manghan, of the Ulster and Leeds Districts; Elder Vard W. Meadows, who has laboured in the Newcastle District; Elder Gordon P. Owen, of the Newcastle and Bristol Districts; and Elder Grant W. Wilde, who has laboured in the Liverpool and Birmingham Districts.

Arrivals and Assignments: The following missionaries arrived in Liverpool on December 15th aboard the *Montclare*; they have been thus assigned:

For the British Mission—William Edwin Egbert, Murtangh, Idaho, to the Leeds District; Heber M. Fackrell, Blackfoot, Idaho, to the Leeds District; Ralph Arthur Garner, Ogden, Utah, to the Sheffield District; Justin Bryce Lillywhite, Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Sheffield District; Dean R. Merrill, Logan, Utah, to the Liverpool District; William T. Shipley, Jr., Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Liverpool District; Cecil Henry Toone, Croydon, Utah, to the Birmingham District.

For the French Mission—John Sherman Tanner, Provo, Utah.

For the German-Austrian Mission—Maxwell Bruce Cox, Fairview, Utah; Serge F. Glade, Salt Lake City, Utah; Joseph N. Symons, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

For the Netherlands Mission—Cland W. Draayer, Hooper, Utah; Adron V. King, Kaysville, Utah; Richard Joseph West, Hooper, Utah.

For the Swiss-German Mission—Winfield Q. Cannon, Salt Lake City, Utah; Harold Mark Creer, Spanish Fork, Utah; Farrell B. Darley, Wellsville, Utah; George Feulner, Magna, Utah; Andrew L. Heggie, Clarkston, Utah; Clifford G. Leslie, Salt Lake City, Utah; Leonard V. Manss, Salt Lake City, Utah; Stephen A. Rose, Farmington, Utah.

Doings in the Districts: *London*—A fair was held by the South

London Branch in the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, London, on December 10th. Each of the auxiliary organizations was responsible for a booth. The display of the Relief Society was deserving of special mention—a tree, by a well, whose branches ran over a wall, illustrated the figure used in Jacob's blessing to his son Joseph recorded in Genesis 49: 22.

Manchester—At a baptismal service held in the Manchester Chapel on December 10th one person was baptized by President Kenneth A. Nielson and confirmed by Elder J. Rulon Doxey.

Nottingham—A social was held in the Nottingham Branch on December 8th under the auspices of the Relief Society. A program and refreshments featured the evening's entertainment.

Sheffield—A social was held in the Doncaster Branch on December 12th in honour of Elder Robert Dell Buchanan who has been transferred to the London District.

A BALLAD OF THE WISE MEN

THE CHRIST CHILD lay in Bethlehem
 And the Wise Men gave him gold,
 And Mary Mother she hearkened them
 As they prayed in the cattle-fold:
 "Smile then, smile, little Prince of Earth,
 Smile in thy holy sleep,
 Now thou art come, for want and dearth
 There shall be plenty and light and mirth
 Through lands where the poor folk weep."
 But Mary Mother was still and pale
 And she raised her gold-ringed head—
 "Then why have I heard the children wail
 All night long on the far-blown gale
 While my own Child slept?" she said.
 But far overhead the angels sang:
 "There shall be joy!" the clear notes rang.

MARGARET WIDDEMER

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EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES E. TALMAGE, 295 EDGE LANE

LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
 LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN